

Cultivating Connections

MARRIAGE CONFERENCE 2019

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The Mystery of Forgiveness

What is a mystery?

“hidden or secret thing, not obvious to the understanding”

The Big Reveal



- Paul sees the Gospel as the reveal of a mystery long locked up.

“... that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel.” Eph 6:19

The Illustration

- To Paul, marriage is an instrument of reveal.

“For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.” Eph 5:30-32



Repentance & Forgiveness



- Jesus saw repentance & forgiveness of sins as central to the revealed mystery.

*“Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures, And said unto them, **Thus it is written, and thus it behooved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.**”*

Luke 24:45-47

What is repentance?

Changing your mind
from worse to better



you



Jesus

What is forgiveness?

Releasing debt
Letting go of wrong



You



Jesus

Relationships Call for Forgiveness

Many different relationships in this life:

- Father/Mother
- Husband/Wife
- Son/Daughter
- Brother/Sister
- Coworker
- Church member
- Neighbor
- Friend
- Acquaintance

Marriage is to be the most intimate of these relationships.

◦ We are called to be "one flesh" (*Gen 2:24*)



The closer we get to each other...

The more we bump into each other...

The more tension this creates...

The more sin is revealed...

And a choice is given us.

Prerequisite for Repentance & Forgiveness

You must be wrong.

"It was Wednesday not Tuesday."



"It was Tuesday not Wednesday."

Repentance in Marriage

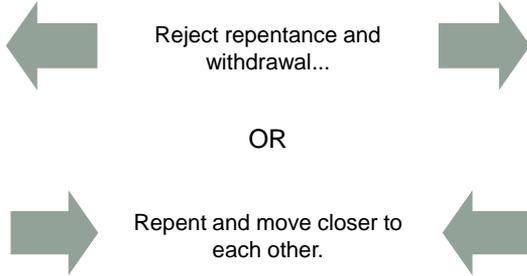
She's right, it was Tuesday.

He's right, it was Wednesday.



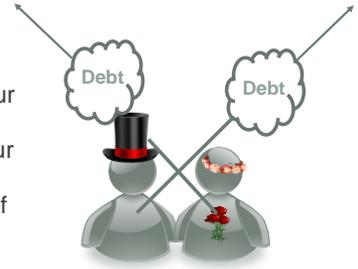
- Acknowledge your wrong.
- Empathize with your spouse.
- Extend apology.
- Change your mind.

The Choice of Repentance

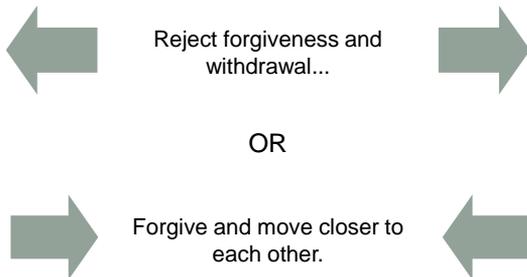


Forgiveness in Marriage

- Acknowledge your spouse's wrong.
- Empathize with your spouse.
- Extend favor to your spouse.
- Release the debt of your spouse.



The Choice of Forgiveness



Everyone wonders...

- Can I be loved unconditionally?
- Can I be forgiven?
- Can I change for the better?

Paul's big reveal says "yes".

"To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:" Col 1:27

As evidenced in...



Self-Reflection Homework

Take some time and reflect on your marriage and forgiveness. Circle at least 4-5 emotions on the *Feeling Words* list that your spouse may feel because of your actions.

	Mad	Sad	Glad	Afraid	Confused	Ashamed	Lonely
	Bothered	Down	At Ease	Uneasy	Curious	Unconfortable	Out of Place
	Irritated	Somber	Comfortable	Careful	Anxious	Clammy	Left Out
	Displeased	Low	Relaxed	Cautious	Doubtful	Self-conscious	Lonesome
	Amused	Disappointed	Contented	Hesitant	Unsettled	Disconcerted	Disconnected
	Perplexed	Lonely	Satisfied	Anxious	Perplexed	Abashed	Irritable
	Frustrated	Worn Out	Refreshed	Nervous	Fuzzled	Embarrassed	Unwelcome
	Angry	Downhearted	Pleased	Edgy	Distracted	Sorry	Excluded
	Judgment	Gloomy	Happy	Frightened	Unfocused	Regretful	Neglected
	Ticked Off	Mourful	Encouraged	Repulsed	Fragrant	Remorseful	Separated
	Bristling	Grieved	Ticked	Agitated	Dimayed	Gulpy	Removed
	Fuming	Depressed	Frost	Shocked	Insecure	Disgusted	Detached
	Explosive	Lousy	Cheerful	Alarmed	Dead	Belittled	Isolated
	Enraged	Crushed	Thrilled	Overwhelmed	Bewildered	Humiliated	Unwanted
	Irate	Defeated	Delighted	Franic	Lost	Violated	Rejected
	Incensed	Dejected	Joyful	Panic	Strained	Dirty	Deserted
	Strained	Up	Wretched	Exhilarated	Perfined	Then	Defiled
	Outraged	Despairing	Overjoyed	Terrified	Buffed	Devariated	Desolate
	Furious	Devastated	Ecstatic	Numb	Dumb-founded	Degraded	Forsoaken

Source: Cited in Beverly Harris, "Pastoral Care and Chaplaincy" class notes, Fall 2000, Talbot Theological Seminary.